

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK-UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2009**

Company: FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY
Address: 301 2ND STREET SOUTH
PO BOX 368
BELLINGHAM, MN 56212
Telephone number: 320-568-2105
Company contact: KRIS RADERMACHER
Study Area Code: 361389

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities

- Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached Exhibit A.)
- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.* (See attached Exhibit B.)
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website. (_____)
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): DISTRIBUTED IN OUR NEWSLETTER
- _____
- _____

* Required

Ortonville Independent
 PO Box 336
 Ortonville, MN 56278 PH: 320-839-6163
 PLEASE RETURN FOR PROPER CREDIT

Statement

Bill To
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO. PO BOX 368 BELLINGHAM, MN 56212



Date	Amount Due	Enclosed
02/26/09	\$42.00	

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
01/31/09	Balance forward		74.20
02/03/09	PMT #11728	-74.20	0.00
02/17/09	INV #16321 - 6" AD - LIFELINE LINK-UP	42.00	42.00

Do You Qualify for Assistance?

Lifeline Link-Up

If you participate in certain low-income programs, you may be eligible for telephone payment assistance.

Lifeline
 Provides a monthly discount to eligible customers on their telephone bill.

Link Up
 Lowers the cost eligible customers pay for connecting new service at home.

For more information, visit our office, e-mail, or call us. A customer service representative can answer your questions and help determine whether you qualify.

farmers@farmerstel.net
 320-568-2105 www.farmerstel.net

Current	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	OVER 90 Days Past Due	Amount Due
\$42.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.00

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)ss
COUNTY OF BIG STONE)

Suzette Kaercher-Blake, being duly sworn, on oath says that she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as The Ortonville Independent and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed Life Line

_____ which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for 1 successive weeks; it was first published on Tuesday, the 17th day of Feb., 2009, and was thereafter printed and published on every Tuesday to and including the _____ day of _____;

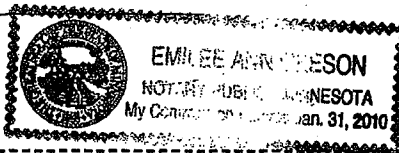
and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

By Suzette Kaercher Blake
Title: Editor

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 17th day of Feb, 2009.

G. J. [Signature]
Notary Public



RATE INFORMATION

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space \$11.90 per inch - (line, word or inch rate)
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter \$10.60 per inch - (line, word or inch rate)
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter \$10.60 per inch - (line, word or inch rate)

WESTERN GUARD
 216 SIXTH AVENUE
 MADISON, MN 56256

Statement

Date

2/25/2009

To:

FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.
 PO BOX 368
 BELLINGHAM, MN 56212

kwiktag® 120 882 074



Amount Due	Amount Enc.
------------	-------------

\$28.88	
---------	--

Date	Transaction	Amount	Balance
01/28/2009	Balance forward		28.88
02/02/2009	PMT	-28.88	0.00
02/18/2009	INV #21180. DO YOU QUALIFY	28.88	28.88

Do You Qualify for Assistance?

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Link Up
 Lowers the cost eligible customers pay for connecting new service at home.

For more information, visit our office, e-mail, or call us. A customer service representative can answer your questions and help determine whether you qualify.

farmers@farmers.tel.net
 320-598-2105 www.farmers.tel.net

FARMERS MUTUAL
 Telephone Company

Amount Due

\$28.88

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE BEFORE 3-25-09
 REMOVE P.O. BOX FROM OUR ADDRESS

Phone #
 320-598-7521

Statement

DAWSON SENTINEL
 674 CHESTNUT STREET
 PO BOX 1015
 DAWSON, MN 56232

Date
2/27/2009

To:
FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO. PO BOX 368 BELLINGHAM, MN 56212

kwiktag® 120 882 113



Amount Due	Amount Enc.
\$35.10	

Date	Transaction	Amount	Balance
01/29/2009	Balance forward		36.75
02/04/2009	PMT #11717.	-36.75	0.00
02/18/2009	INV #19784. LEGAL 2X3.25 FARMERS MUTUAL AD	35.10	35.10
			Amount Due

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE BEFORE 3-25-09 FINANCE
 CHARGE 1.5% PER MONTH.

Amount Due
\$35.10

)ss.

County of Lac qui Parle)

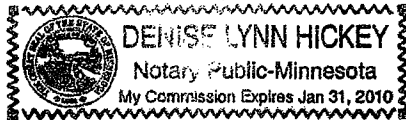
Dave Hickey

, being duly sworn on oath says: that he/she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as DAWSON SENTINEL, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed Sentinel Ad-Do you Qualify for Assistance?

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for one successive weeks; it was first published on Wednesday, the 18 day of February, 2009; and was thereafter printed and published on every Weds to and including Weds, the 18 day of February, 2009; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:



*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: Denise L. Hickey

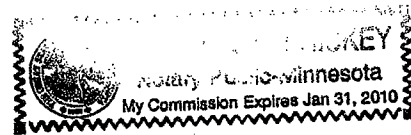
TITLE: Publication

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

this 19th day of Feb, 2009

Denise L. Hickey

Notary Public



RATE INFORMATION

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space 9 point - \$5.70/inch, .68/line
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter 8 point - \$5.70/inch, .68/line
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter 8 point - \$5.40/inch, .65/line

Do You Qualify for Assistance?

Lifeline **Link-Up**

If you participate in certain low-income programs, you may be eligible for telephone payment assistance.

Lifeline
Provides a monthly discount to eligible customers on their telephone bill.

Link-Up
Lowers the cost eligible customers pay for connecting new service at home.

For more information, visit our office, e-mail, or call us. A customer service representative can answer your questions and help determine whether you qualify.

farmers@farmerslife.net
320-568-2105 www.farmerslife.net

FARMERS MUTUAL
Life Insurance Company

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Under a law the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) eligibility requirement, which, also, updates the Federal Lifeline Credit program requirement, changes the offer of telephone assistance to the subscriber at their primary residence. From here forward, annually you must provide proof of eligibility to receive the monthly credit to your phone bill. You are now eligible for TAP if you provide proof of participation in:

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA)
- Food Support (food stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8 Assistance
- National School Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Tribal Administered Head Start (for those meeting income qualifying standard)

If you do not participate in any program listed above, but your income is at or below 135% (\$12,920) of the Federal Poverty Guideline please attach one of the following documents:

- Last year's State, Federal or Tribal Tax Return
- 3 Consecutive Months of Most Recent Paycheck Stub
- Veterans Administration Benefits Statement
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement
- Child Support Document
- Current Annual Income Statement from Employer
- Social Security Benefits Statement
- Retirement/Pension Benefit Statement
- Divorce Decree
- Other

NOTE CHANGE OF REQUIREMENTS: If you currently receive a TAP/Lifeline Credit on your primary residence telephone billing, please provide Farmers Mutual Telephone Company with current proof of eligibility based on above listed criteria. Farmers Mutual is now required to gather this proof on an annual basis.

If you no longer receive benefits from any of the programs listed above or have not provided Farmers Mutual with proof of eligibility you will no longer receive TAP/Federal Lifeline Credit discount after December 31, 2008. Your January 10, 2009 billing will no longer reflect the discount. However, an Application may be completed and proof of eligibility provided at the FMTC office any time during the calendar year.

If you have questions about the changes to the TAP/Federal Lifeline Credit Program, please call the SD Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 or Farmers Mutual Telephone Company at 320/568-2105.

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company Management

South Dakota Telephone Service Discount Application
Use this application to apply for Link-Up and Lifeline
(Please Print)

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Check Box that best describes where you live: I live on a reservation I do not live on a reservation

Telephone Number (existing service):
MUST be in applicant's name
(_____) - _____
Area code & 7-digit number

Telephone Number where you can be:
Reached or receive messages
(_____) - _____
Area code & 7-digit number

Name of your local telephone company _____

No. of people living in your household _____

- o **I receive benefits from the following program(s): *Check all that apply and attach proof of participation***
 - o Medicaid/Medical Assistance
 - o Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8 Assistance
 - o Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - o National School Free Lunch Program
 - o Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - o Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - o Food Support (food stamps)
 - o Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
 - o Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
 - o Tribal Administered Head Start (for those meeting income qualifying standard)

- 2. **I do not participate in any program listed above BUT and my income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guideline. *Please attach one of the documents below if you did not check any boxes in #1.***
 - o Last year's State, Federal or Tribal Tax Return
 - o 3 consecutive months of most recent paycheck stub
 - o Veterans Administration Benefits Statement
 - o Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement
 - o Child Support Document
 - o Current annual income statement from employer
 - o Social Security Benefits Statement
 - o Retirement/Pension Benefit Statement
 - o Divorce Decree
 - o Other

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying programs or my income rises above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet one of the criteria above to receive telephone service discounts on my primary telephone line.

Applicant Signature _____ Social Security Number _____ Date _____

I am an "Authorized Representative" for this applicant and am submitting this form on behalf of this customer. I am willing to assist this applicant in seeking telephone service discounts.

Print "Authorized Representative" name _____ Daytime Phone Number _____ Date _____

Complete Application • • Attach Proof of Income Documents

FARMERS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY
PO BOX 368
BELLINGHAM, MN 56212

320-568-2105 PHONE
320-568-2200 FAX
Email: farmers@farmerstel.net
Website: www.farmerstel.net

ABOUT MINNESOTA RELAY

Minnesota Relay is a free service providing full telephone accessibility to persons who are deaf, deaf/blind, hard-of-hearing, or speech-disabled. A specially trained communication assistant (CA) facilitates the telephone conversation between a person who has hearing loss or a speech disability and a hearing person. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world (long distance charges apply), 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number, length or type of calls. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of any conversations are maintained.

Minnesota Relay is administered by the Telecommunication Access Minnesota (TAM) program within the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Minnesota Relay center is located in Moorhead, MN. Minnesota Relay and associated outreach services are provided to the state under contract with Communication Service for the Deaf.

Minnesota Relay is funded through a monthly surcharge on each wired and wireless telephone access line in the state.

For specific instructions on placing or receiving a Minnesota Relay call, please see the instructions on page 9 of this directory or visit the Minnesota Relay website at www.mnrelay.org.

Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan

The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) may provide eligible persons with a credit of up to \$1.75 per month on their phone bills. You are eligible for the assistance if participating in one or more of the following programs:

- * Medical Assistance (MA)
- * Food Support (food stamps)
- * Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- * Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- * Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- * Federal Public Housing Assistance
- * Under 135% of Federal Poverty level

If you do not qualify under the above criteria, but live on a federally recognized reservation, you can also qualify if you participate in one of the following:

- * Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- * Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- * Head Start (only for those meeting the income qualifying standard)
- * National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

Federal Lifeline Plan

You may qualify for a monthly federal Lifeline credit on your telephone bill if you are receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

If you are participating in one or more of these programs, you may certify eligibility by completing an application, providing proof of eligibility for benefit, and submitting it to our business office. Please contact our business office for an application.

For Lifeline Information and applications:

**Farmers Mutual
Telephone Company
Customers**
Call 1-800-692-0021

**Federated Telephone
Customers**
Call 1-800-374-7133

**Valley Telephone
Company Customers**
Call 1-866-290-1729



TELE-NOTES

Volume 6, Issue 4

April 2009

2009 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction plans for 2009 include:

Bellingham Exchange~ Our fiber to the premise construction for the Bellingham exchange is nearly complete. If you are in the Bellingham exchange and have any unresolved issues from our construction, please contact our office at 568-2105.

Marietta & West Marietta Exchange~ Contractors for Farmers Mutual will begin construction in the Marietta & West Marietta exchange as soon as possible this spring.

These plans call for constructing over 145 miles. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work to complete this portion of our fiber to the premise network. Of course, Mother Nature will have the final say!

If you are a member in the construction areas listed above, please watch the newsletter and your mail for more details. If you are contacted by a technician for Farmers Mutual, please respond to them as soon as possible to keep the project running smoothly.

Our contractors for the Marietta & West Marietta Exchange are as follows:

Ripley's, Inc.: will provide the plow crew and installation of the fiber. One of Farmers Mutual's service technicians works with this contractor during the construction.

J. Carlson Construction: J. Carlson's crew splices the fiber network together.



Inside this issue:

- Phone Discount 2
- SecureIT 2
- Administrative Professionals 3
- Auto pay 3
- Important #'s 3
- New Website 4
- Directory Additions 4

Farmers Mutual Telephone Company 2009 Capital Credit Checks

If you are unable to come to our annual meeting, watch for your capital check to be mailed after the March 31, 2009 meeting. These checks will be mailed separately from the regular telephone bill. Make a mental note to watch your mail for an envelope marked "Important Notice" from Farmers Mutual Telephone Company.

Internet Help Desk

Open 24 Hours a Day
7 Days a Week



Simply Dial:
752-HELP (4357)
Exchanges 568, 668,
678, or 752
For Madison Dial:
698-3333

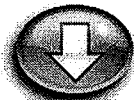
Phone Discount for Low Income

There are several programs that provide assistance with paying your phone bill. The Lifeline program is federally funded and will provide a credit of up to \$9.13 each month on your phone bill. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Support (food stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

If you are a Minnesota resident and you qualify for a Lifeline credit, you will also qualify for the Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). This program offers an additional \$1.75 monthly discount on your phone bill.

For more information or an application, please contact our office by dialing 611 from your home phone or 568-2105.



Low Income Discounts Available

135 % of the 2009 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Household Size	Income
1	\$14,621
2	\$19,670
3	\$24,719
4	\$29,768
5	\$34,817
Each additional person	\$5,049



SecureIT
Complete. Computer. Protection.

If you have Internet - You NEED Virus Protection

We now have 2 Installation Options available:

Fresh Start Installation

- Guaranteed Protection! \$34.95
1. Verify download/establish a connection
 2. Check/verify system requirements
 3. Look for and remove previous antivirus software
 4. Check for infections/malicious software
 - a. Terminate any running processes that are in active spyware/virus list.
 - b. Identify hidden and high risk software
 - c. Remove malicious software and threats
 - d. Scan the computer's memory and hard drive for any further security threats
 - e. Advise you on how to avoid future infections
 5. Remove any unnecessary start-up items for better performance of the PC after restart
 6. Install SecureIT and ensure all components are updated and running.
 - a. Apply any Windows critical patches

Manual Installation

- No Guarantee \$6.95
- Self-Installation

**Call Us Today to Sign up
Only \$4.95 a month!**

**Administrative Professional's Day -
April 22nd**



*THANK YOU
KRIS RADERMACHER, OFFICE MANAGER,
AND JACKIE JESSEN, CUSTOMER SERVICE
REPRESENTATIVE, FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!*

Important Phone Numbers:

- Billing Questions611 from your Farmers phone
or 320-568-2105
- Repairs611 from your Farmers phone
or 320-568-2105
- Office320-568-2105
- Minnesota Attorney
General's Office1-800-657-3787
- Minnesota Public
Utilities Commission1-800-657-3782
- Minnesota Department of Commerce
Telecommunications Division..... 651-296-4026
- Better Business Bureau1-800-646-6222
- Federal Communications
Commission1-888-225-5322

Tired of Writing Checks?



Just complete the information below and return it to our office to have your payment deducted from an account automatically each month. You will still receive a bill for your account. The charges are deducted from your account on the 20th of each month. It's that easy!

Name _____

Account # _____

Social Security #: _____

Automate Bank Payment

Name of Financial Institution

Address of Financial Institution

City State Zip

Bank Routing #

Bank Account #
Checking _____ Savings _____

Automate Credit Card Payment

VISA _____ Mastercard _____

Credit Card #

Expiration Date

Zip Code (Where statements are Mailed)

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Check out our NEW website

Farmers Mutual has updated our website. Here are some things you can find on our site:

- Check Email
- Internet Speed Test
- Weather Updates
- Movie Theatre Times
- School Information
- Local Racetracks
- Much much more!



www.farmerstel.net

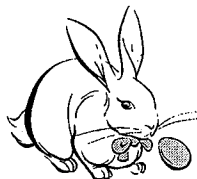
Directory Additions

Bellingham:

Nicholas Tessman..... 568-2144

West Marietta:

Jeremy Estling.....678-2337



Happy Easter!

April 12th

Call Before You Dig "It's the Law"



Simply Dial 811

Simply Dial 811 from your telephone.
Remember to call 48 Hours before you dig.
SOUTH DAKOTA: 1-800-781-7474

Office Contact Information

Main Office:

PO Box 368
301 2nd Street South
Bellingham, MN 56212

Office: 1-320-568-2105 or 611
1-800-692-0021

Repairs: 1-320-568-2105 or 611
1-800-692-0021

Fax: 1-320-568-2200

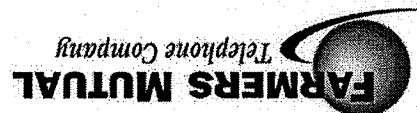
farmers@farmerstel.net www.farmerstel.net

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Communications @ the Speed of Life.

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BELLINGHAM, MN
56212
PERMIT NO. 1

**Communications @
the Speed of Life.**



PO Box 368
301 2nd St. S.
Bellingham, MN 56212